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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0614.93
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USDA ESTABLISHES FINAL SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS AND INITIAL REALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993

WASHINGTON, July 26--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the establishment of final marketing allotments and allocations for sugar and crystalline fructose for fiscal year 1993. Preliminary amounts had been issued on June 30, followed by a hearing on July 15.

The department also announced a reassignment of 170 thousand short tons (TST) of Hawaii's marketing allotment to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. The reassignment is the portion of Hawaii's state allotment which is not expected to be filled because of a deficit in Hawaii's sugar supply relative to its allotment. This is an initial reassignment; further reassessments may follow.

The marketing allotment in fiscal 1993 for crystalline fructose manufactured from corn remains at 159.757 TST.

These actions apply to all sugar and crystalline fructose marketed in the United States from Oct. 1, 1992, through Sept. 30, 1993.

The preliminary, final, and reassigned allotment and allocation quantities for sugar are as follows:

FISCAL YEAR 1993 SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

| | Prelim- inary Allot./ Alloc. | Final Allot./ Alloc. | Differ- ence Allot./ Alloc. | Re- assign- ment Alloc. | Total Allot./ Alloc. including Re- assign- ment |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| ----- 1000 short tons ----- | | | | | |
| OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENT: | | | | | |
| Beet sugar | 4,149.2 | 4,152.2 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 4,152.2 |
| Cane sugar (including PR) | 3,620.8 | 3,617.8 | -3.0 | 0.0 | 3,617.8 |
| TOTAL | 7,770.0 | 7,770.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7,770.0 |

STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Florida | 1,701.8 | 1,699.3 | -2.5 | 140.8 | 1,840.1 |
| Louisiana | 832.8 | 832.1 | -0.7 | 21.3 | 853.4 |
| Texas | 115.9 | 114.0 | -1.9 | 7.9 | 121.9 |
| Hawaii | 879.9 | 880.7 | 0.8 | -170.0 | 1/ 710.7 |
| Puerto Rico | 90.5 | 3 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 91.8 |
| TOTAL CANE SUGAR | 3,620.8 | 3,617.8 | -3.0 | 0.0 | 3,617.8 |

BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| The Amalgamated Sugar Co. | 800.796 | 795.376 | -5.420 | 0.000 | 795.376 |
| American Crystal Sugar Co. | 904.526 | 938.235 | 33.709 | 0.000 | 938.235 |
| Delta Sugar Corp. | 41.492 | 42.201 | 0.709 | 0.000 | 42.201 |
| Great Lakes Sugar Co. | 53.940 | 54.618 | 0.678 | 0.000 | 54.618 |
| Holly Sugar Corp. | 742.707 | 721.215 | -21.492 | 0.000 | 721.215 |
| Michigan Sugar Co. | 248.952 | 248.278 | -0.674 | 0.000 | 248.278 |
| Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op. | 182.565 | 189.336 | 6.771 | 0.000 | 189.336 |
| Monitor Sugar Co. | 136.924 | 137.856 | 0.932 | 0.000 | 137.856 |
| Spreckels Sugar Co. | 282.146 | 277.321 | -4.825 | 0.000 | 277.321 |
| Western Sugar Co. | 477.158 | 471.949 | -5.209 | 0.000 | 471.949 |
| So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op. | 257.250 | 251.677 | -5.573 | 0.000 | 251.677 |
| Savannah (ADSEP Division) | 20.746 | 24.122 | 3.376 | 0.000 | 24.122 |
| TOTAL BEET SUGAR | 4,149.202 | 4,152.184 | 2.982 | 0.000 | 4,152.184 |

CANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:

FLORIDA

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|
| U.S. Sugar Corp. | 665.398 | 663.414 | -1.984 | 54.961 | 718.375 |
| Growers Co-op. of FL | 289.303 | 287.821 | -1.482 | 23.845 | 311.666 |
| Atlantic Sugar Assoc. | 127.634 | 130.745 | 3.111 | 10.832 | 141.577 |
| Osceola Farms Co. | 190.600 | 190.058 | -0.542 | 15.745 | 205.804 |
| Talisman Sugar Corp. | 124.230 | 124.349 | 0.119 | 10.302 | 134.650 |
| Okeelanta Corp. | 304.620 | 302.902 | -1.718 | 25.094 | 327.996 |
| TOTAL FLORIDA | 1,701.785 | 1,699.289 | -2.496 | 140.779 | 1,840.068 |

LOUISIANA

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Glenwood Co-op. | 34.145 | 34.203 | 0.058 | 0.875 | 35.079 |
| Breaux Bridge Sugar Co-op. | 28.315 | 27.827 | -0.488 | 0.712 | 28.539 |
| Savoie Industries | 35.810 | 37.509 | 1.699 | 0.960 | 38.469 |
| Cajun Sugar Co-op. | 50.801 | 50.623 | -0.178 | 1.296 | 51.918 |
| M. A. Patout & Sons | 86.611 | 87.216 | 0.605 | 2.232 | 89.448 |
| Raceland Sugars | 56.630 | 56.910 | 0.280 | 1.456 | 58.366 |
| St. Martin Sugar Co-op. | 33.312 | 32.259 | -1.053 | 0.826 | 33.085 |
| Dugas & Leblanc | 37.476 | 37.982 | 0.506 | 0.972 | 38.954 |
| Caldwell Sugars Co-op. | 34.978 | 34.572 | -0.406 | 0.885 | 35.457 |
| St. James Sugar Co-op. | 42.473 | 42.430 | -0.043 | 1.086 | 43.516 |
| Sterling Sugars | 48.302 | 47.796 | -0.506 | 1.223 | 49.019 |
| Iberia Sugar Co-op. | 38.309 | 38.217 | -0.092 | 0.978 | 39.196 |
| Alma Plantation | 35.810 | 35.224 | -0.586 | 0.901 | 36.126 |
| Caire & Graugnard | 8.328 | 8.386 | 0.058 | 0.215 | 8.601 |
| St. Mary Sugar Co-op. | 39.142 | 39.595 | 0.453 | 1.013 | 40.609 |
| Harry Laws & Co. | 29.981 | 29.833 | -0.148 | 0.764 | 30.597 |
| Cora-Texas Mfg. Co. | 59.962 | 59.578 | -0.384 | 1.525 | 61.102 |
| Evan Hall Factory | 44.971 | 44.710 | -0.261 | 1.144 | 45.855 |
| Jeanerette Sugar Co. | 41.640 | 41.671 | 0.031 | 1.066 | 42.738 |
| Lafourche Sugars Corp. | 45.804 | 45.519 | -0.285 | 1.165 | 46.684 |
| TOTAL LOUISIANA | 832.800 | 832.063 | -0.737 | 21.295 | 853.357 |

TEXAS

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers | 115.866 | 113.972 | -1.894 | 7.927 | 121.899 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|

HAWAII

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|------------|
| Hawaiian Commerical & Sugar Co. | 230.523 | 226.396 | -4.127 | 0.000 | 226.396 |
| McBryde Sugar Co. | 43.993 | 44.498 | 0.505 | 0.000 | 44.498 |
| Kekaha Sugar Co. | 51.912 | 52.008 | 0.096 | 0.000 | 52.008 |
| The Lihue Plantation Co. | 58.951 | 59.708 | 0.757 | 0.000 | 59.708 |
| Oahu Sugar Co. | 80.067 | 80.856 | 0.789 | 0.000 | 80.856 |
| Pioneer Mill Co. | 44.873 | 45.465 | 0.592 | 0.000 | 45.465 |
| C. Brewer and Co. (Hilo Coast) | 76.548 | 76.924 | 0.376 | 0.000 | 76.924 |
| Ka'u Agribusiness Co. | 56.311 | 56.848 | 0.537 | 0.000 | 56.848 |
| Olokele Sugar Co. | 46.633 | 46.923 | 0.290 | 0.000 | 46.923 |
| Waialua Sugar Co. | 65.110 | 65.161 | 0.051 | 0.000 | 65.161 |
| Hamakua Sugar Co. | 124.940 | 125.892 | 0.952 | 0.000 | 125.892 |
| TOTAL HAWAII | 879.861 | 880.682 | 0.821 | 0.000 | 2/ 880.682 |

PUERTO RICO

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Coloso | 28.514 | 28.925 | 0.411 | 0.000 | 28.925 |
| Mercedita | 24.441 | 24.794 | 0.353 | 0.000 | 24.794 |
| Plata | 17.108 | 17.311 | 0.203 | 0.000 | 17.311 |
| Roig | 20.458 | 20.780 | 0.322 | 0.000 | 20.780 |
| TOTAL PUERTO RICO | 90.521 | 91.811 | 1.290 | 0.000 | 91.811 |

1/ Portion of allotment expected to be marketed.

2/ Approximately 170,000 tons of allotment is not expected to be marketed.



Release No. 0615.93
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DEDICATION CELEBRATES INTERAGENCY COMMITMENT TO WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, July 27--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service will hold a dedication ceremony on Aug. 21 establishing two new wilderness management program facilities in Montana--the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in historic Ninemile Ranger Station/Remount Depot and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute on the campus of the University of Montana in Missoula.

The Forest Service founded the new programs with the active participation and support of three U.S. Department of the Interior land management agencies--the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

"The closely-aligned programs of the Training Center and the Research Institute demonstrate the belief that the best and most efficient way to act as wilderness stewards is to integrate research and management efforts across agency and organizational boundaries," said Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Jim Lyons. "This integrated approach exemplifies the administration's commitment to efficiency in government."

The program facilities will be dedicated in a celebration sponsored by the four agencies. The dedication will be held near the Training Center site on the Ninemile District of the Lolo National Forest at Huson, Mont., about 30 miles west of Missoula.

The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the historic Ninemile Ranger Station and will be followed by wilderness-related demonstrations, tours, and activities. Other sponsors include the National Outdoor Leadership School and the Northwest Interpretive Association.

Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson and the directors of the Interior agencies will participate in the event, as will Minnesota's Congressman Bruce Vento, the Montana Congressional delegation, and other federal, state, and local officials.

The facilities are named for early Forest Service employees, Aldo Leopold and Arthur Carhart, who pioneered the concept of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The NWPS was established by Congress in 1964 to secure an enduring resource of wilderness for the American people. Today the benefits and importance, both nationally and globally, of preserving wilderness are even more significant than they were 30 years ago. The NWPS represents one of the greatest ecological resources in the U.S. and abroad.

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Release No. 0618.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES AMENDMENT TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

WASHINGTON, July 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced it is amending Animal Welfare Act regulations to help prevent the use of lost and stolen pets in research, by giving pet owners more time to find their pets and by requiring more documentation from dealers who sell animals to researchers.

Under the new regulations, which take effect Aug. 23, pounds and animal shelters must hold dogs and cats for at least five days, including a Saturday, before releasing them to dealers. The new regulations also require a written certification that the holding period has been met and that the dealer has notified the pound or shelter that the animal may be used for research.

"We believe the new holding period provides a reasonable time for lost pets to be recovered by their owners or adopted," said Dale F. Schwindaman, deputy administrator for regulatory enforcement and animal care in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The certificates will also enable dogs and cats to be traced to their ultimate destination."

Schwindaman said individual shelter operators and state or local governments previously set the holding periods. APHIS estimates that most facilities held their animals for about three days before releasing them to dealers. The new requirements may affect up to 3,800 pounds and shelters in the United States.

The final regulations were published in the July 22 Federal Register as Docket 91-035-3.

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Release No. 0619.93
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USDA AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION IN CHALLENGE GRANTS

WASHINGTON, July 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded 23 institution challenge grants totaling \$1.5 million to 18 colleges and universities in 17 states.

The grants were announced by John Patrick Jordan, administrator of USDA's Cooperative State Research Service.

Jordan said the grants are part of the USDA's Higher Education Challenge Grants Program, administered by USDA's Office of Higher Education Programs, and are designed to improve higher education in the food and agricultural sciences. The 1993 grants, Jordan said, were made for projects in curriculum design and materials development, faculty preparation for teaching, instructional delivery systems, and student experiential learning.

Any U.S. college and university offering baccalaureate and higher degrees in the food and agricultural sciences may apply for the grants, Jordan said. Each grantee must be committed to the food and agricultural sciences and to the specific subject areas for which the grant is used. CSRS received 110 proposals for the grants from 61 institutions across 40 states, Jordan said, and used a 22-member peer-review panel to select the 23 proposals funded.

FY 1993 HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED TO STATES AND INSTITUTIONS

| STATE | INSTITUTION | TOTAL FUNDS |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| California | California Polytechnic State Univ. | \$ 62,587 |
| Colorado | Colorado State University | 64,568 |
| Connecticut | University of Connecticut | 48,278 |
| Florida | Florida State University | 68,000 |
| Iowa | Iowa State University | 130,000 |
| Illinois | University of Illinois | 71,950 |
| Indiana | Purdue University | 130,000 |
| Kentucky | University of Kentucky | 64,475 |
| Louisiana | Louisiana Tech University | 44,279 |
| Michigan | Michigan State University | 71,472 |
| Minnesota | University of Minnesota | 65,803 |
| New Mexico | New Mexico State University | 130,000 |
| New York | Cornell University | 45,527 |
| Oregon | Oregon State University | 130,000 |
| Texas | Texas A&M University | 64,568 |
| Texas | Texas Tech University | 66,825 |
| Utah | Utah State University | 67,985 |
| Virginia | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University | 128,683 |
| | | ----- |
| | Total | \$ 1,455,000 |

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Release No. 0620.93
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USDA ASKS FOR COMMENTS ON AMENDING MARINE MAMMAL ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, July 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering revision of Animal Welfare Act standards for the humane care and transportation of marine mammals used for exhibition and research.

"We are soliciting comments on appropriate changes or additions to the present marine mammal standards," said Dale F. Schwindaman, deputy administrator of regulatory enforcement and animal care in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

APHIS is the federal agency responsible for the humane handling, housing, care, treatment, and transportation of marine mammals used for research or exhibition. Standards for the treatment of marine mammals were adopted in 1979 and amended in 1984.

"During the nine years since the standards were amended, advances have been made, new information has been developed and new concepts have been implemented concerning the housing and care of marine mammals," said Schwindaman.

As part of the review of the standards, the public is also being invited to respond to the following questions:

--Should APHIS establish ambient air and water temperature ranges for each species in both indoor and outdoor facilities? If so, what should these temperature ranges be?

--Should the regulations consider the effect of noise on animals? If so, what level of noise would be acceptable?

--Should APHIS allow public contact with marine mammals, including programs such as "Swim-with-the-Dolphins?" If so, under what circumstances should contact be allowed?

--Should APHIS require additional recordkeeping in the areas of behavior, food intake, and veterinary care? If so, what recordkeeping should be required?

--Should APHIS allow solitary confinement of marine mammals?

--Is the currently required coliform test for water quality adequate? What test methods should APHIS allow? Should APHIS establish pH ranges by species? If so, what ranges would be acceptable?

If the APHIS animal care staff determines after review of the comments that the standards for marine mammals should be revised, the proposed standards will be published at a later date for public comment.

Comments will be considered if received by Oct. 6 and should refer to docket number 93-076-1. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782.

Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

For further information contact: R. L. Crawford, assistant deputy administrator, animal care, REAC, APHIS, USDA, Room 554 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782; telephone (301) 436-4981.



Release No. 0622.93
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ESPY ANNOUNCES \$1.684 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

WASHINGTON, July 28--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has helped obtain more than \$1.684 million in funding for five community volunteer projects in four states--Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, and New Mexico.

"These grants from the Commission on National and Community Service will provide a significant boost for community service efforts across America," Espy said. "This is a perfect example of the kind of public-private partnership that will be created and bolstered by the President's national service plan.

"Working together with land-grant universities, USDA's Extension Service will forge a powerful union to provide youth service opportunities throughout this country. The USDA will take every step possible to help President Clinton create a national service system that promotes community, opportunity, and responsibility," Espy said.

Kansas:

The Extension Service in Topeka will receive \$800,000 to develop a national service model for medical and health services in rural areas. Emergency medical services and Extension 4-H offices in several southeastern Kansas counties will establish service corps that train "first responder" volunteers who provide initial medical care before emergency vehicles arrive. Participants will also manage health education and immunization programs.

In Lawrence, \$42,000 was awarded to implement an after-school child care program. As an increasing number of Kansas families move from single to two-wage earner status, the need for after-school care increases. County Extension 4-H offices will develop and manage the program for elementary school children. A teacher will provide oversight, working with youth and senior citizen volunteers who are recruited and trained by Extension.

Michigan:

The Lapeer County school system will receive a one-year grant of \$13,200 for the Youth Experiencing Action project. YEA will target youth "at risk" who are struggling in school, or who have re-entered school through alternative education. The project, which establishes a tutorial program, provides students ages 13-18 with tutors after school and during the summer.

Missouri:

The University of Missouri Extension Service will receive \$800,000 in funds to further administer the Serve America component of the National and Community Service Act. This is the second year of the Service America program in Missouri. The state Board of Education is responsible for establishing the process for selecting communities interested in incorporating service learning as a part of their formal school.

The Missouri project goal is to promote youth involvement in community service. The state Extension Service 4-H office will review and select appropriate curriculum; conduct staff development, training, and technical assistance; and oversee program evaluation.

New Mexico:

In Portales, an Extension-led collaborative project that was awarded \$29,000 will join the resources of the county Extension 4-H Youth Development Program, and the Roosevelt County Community Service Center in training high school youth to work with children ages 5-8. Community Service Center officials will work with Extension 4-H staff in recruiting participants, who will provide learning activities that build self and community awareness. The Community Service Center will house the project and Extension 4-H office will provide the curriculum, programmatic direction, and training.

For more information about these community service projects, contact Steve Mullen at (202) 720-5332, INTERNET smullen@esusda.gov.



Release No. 0624.93
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BRANSTOOL CONTINUES FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE BY VISITING NEBRASKA MEAT PLANTS

WASHINGTON, July 28 -- Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Branstool, who oversees the Marketing and Inspection Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is visiting meat plants in Nebraska today and tomorrow.

Branstool, who is visiting meat plants around the country, will tour Monfort, Inc. in Grand Island tomorrow. The Monfort tour will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at about 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 29. Branstool visited the Cornhusker Packing Co. in Omaha today and a poultry plant in Pennsylvania earlier this month.

"We are committed to improving and reforming meat inspection," Branstool said. "We will continue to do everything we can to assure consumers of the safest possible meat and poultry supply for consumers."

Branstool said these plant tours help him to develop a better understanding of meat and poultry processing and that the tours also demonstrate to both industry and consumers the commitment of this administration to improve food safety.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has asked Branstool to develop new meat inspection standards to better ensure food safety. He has directed the Food Safety and Inspection Service to take steps to update the meat inspection system.

"We need to improve our meat inspection system and with the help of Assistant Secretary Branstool we are committed to developing a system based on sound science," said Espy.

Branstool will also attend a luncheon with Nebraska agricultural leaders at the Holiday Inn near the airport in Lincoln at noon tomorrow.

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Release No. 0625.93
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USDA TAKES STEPS TO ENSURE SAFE MEAT PROCESSING IN NYC

WASHINGTON, July 28--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today reported that U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have taken immediate actions to ensure that additional safety measures are implemented at meat and poultry plants in New York City during the city's alert of reported E. coli bacteria in the water supply.

Officials from USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service temporarily shut down 37 plants in a 12- to 15-block area located in the Fourteenth Street Market section of Manhattan and three in the Chinatown area between 5 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"Our inspectors were instructed to take every precaution so that New York City residents and all consumers can be assured that the meat and poultry from these plants are safe to eat," said Espy.

Federal inspection laws require that water used in meat processing meet Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards.

Espy noted that New York City Department of Environmental Protection officials identified E. coli bacteria during tests of the city's water supply on Tuesday.

E. coli strains are considered a public health concern since they are an indicator of fecal contamination linked to sewage or animal waste. E. coli in water is usually not associated with foodborne illnesses.

Drinking water standards are enforced by city health departments, and FSIS area officials met with New York City Department of Environmental Protection and City Department of Health officials before approving reopening of the meat processing plants today.

Espy said USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service instructed ten inspectors who work in the Manhattan area to require that processing plants use either sanitizers or boiled water in their operations until the city lifts a boil-water restriction in effect since Tuesday.

FSIS Area supervisor George Puchta in Manhattan said inspectors would report one hour early on Thursday to receive further instruction on requirements plants must meet in order to start daily processing operations. All meat and poultry slaughter and processing plants must meet federal inspection standards.

Consumers with questions about prevention of foodborne illness can call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern Time.

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Release No. 0629.93

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USDA TEMPORARILY CLOSES THE BORDER TO MEXICAN HORSE IMPORTS

WASHINGTON, July 30 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has banned all Mexican horses, mules and donkeys from crossing the border into the United States following reports of an outbreak of Venezuelan equine encephalitis in southern Mexico.

"We believe closing the border is the most effective precautionary measure we can take to protect the United States from this disease until we have thoroughly evaluated the situation in Mexico," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, isolated the virus on July 22 from samples submitted from horses affected by the outbreak in Chiapas, Mexico. The USDA closed the border the next day. Further tests are being conducted. Mexican officials reported 92 horses have shown signs of the disease and 42 appeared to have died from the disease in the state of Chiapas. The last reported outbreak of Venezuelan equine encephalitis in Mexico happened in 1973, Johnson said.

This disease is a highly infectious viral disease of equines and other animal species. It is primarily spread through mosquitoes. Most horses, mules and donkeys infected with the disease show central nervous system disorders, including depression, drowsiness and lack of coordination, which can vary in severity. There is no cure for the disease once an animal is infected. However, there is a vaccine and vaccinating animals aids in preventing spread of the virus.

Venezuelan equine encephalitis can also affect humans -- it causes flu-like symptoms and can even, in rare cases, cause death. There are no vaccines for humans.

USDA confined the only outbreak of this disease in the U.S. -- in 1971 -- to southern Texas, but it killed hundreds of horses and hospitalized many people.

Horse owners living in the border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas should vaccinate their horses, Johnson said. Horse owners in other areas may want to check with their veterinarians to decide on the need for vaccination. Veterinarians can contact the USDA veterinarian in charge in their state.

"Horse owners and veterinarians should report suspected cases of encephalitis or central nervous system disorders to state animal health officials or to APHIS-Veterinary Service," Johnson said.

Horses, mules, donkeys and other equine from Mexico being imported through USDA animal import centers in New York, Florida and California are still eligible to enter the United States after a seven-day quarantine and testing for the virus, and after meeting other disease requirements.

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Release No. 0630.93

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USDA PROTECTS 22 NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND REISSUES TWO CERTIFICATES

WASHINGTON, July 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 22 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants. In addition, two certificates are being reissued at this time.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. The plants include barley, bean, Kentucky bluegrass, cauliflower, corn, cotton, fennel, tall fescue, flaccidgrass, pea and wheat.

Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

--the Virtue variety of barley, developed by Svalof AB, Sweden;
--the Allure variety of garden bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Company, Kalamazoo, Mich.;

--the DMC 04-14, DMC 08-01 and DMC 08-02 varieties of garden bean, developed by the Del Monte Corp., Walnut Creek, Calif.;

--the Washington variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by the Cascade International Seed Company and Jonathan Green & Sons Inc., Farmingdale, N.J.;

--the Ostrea variety of cauliflower, developed by Rijk Zwaan Zaadteelt en Zaadhanel B.V., the Netherlands;

--the ICI 986 variety of corn developed by Zeneca Ltd., Coon Rapids, Iowa;
--the NQ508 variety of corn, developed by United AgriSeeds Inc., Marshalltown, Iowa;
--the PHR31 variety of corn, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;
--the DP 5415 variety of cotton, developed by the Delta & Pine Land Company, Scott, Miss.;
--the AB Sweet Anise 93 variety of fennel, developed by the D'Arrigo Bros. Company of California, Salinas, Calif.;

--the Eldorado variety of tall fescue, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, Ore.;
--the Carostan variety of flaccidgrass, developed by the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service, Raleigh, N.C.;

--the DMC 50-02 variety of pea, developed by the Del Monte Corp., Walnut Creek, Calif.;
--the Style variety of pea, developed by Pure Line Seeds Inc., Moscow, Idaho;
--the 2370 and 2371 varieties of wheat, developed by the NDSU Research Foundation, Fargo, N.D.;

--the Express variety of wheat, developed by Western Plant Breeders Inc., Chandler, Ariz.;
--the Centennial variety of wheat, developed by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho.; and

--the 2510 and 2566 varieties of wheat, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Windfall, Ind.

Certificates of protection for the OQ603 corn variety, owned by United AgriSeed Inc., and the Paymaster HS200 cotton variety, owned by Cargill Hybrid Seeds, are being reissued at this time.

The certificates of protection for the Virtue barley variety and the 2370, 2371 and Express wheat varieties are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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Release No. 0633.93

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USDA DECLARES MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY ERADICATED FROM SAN DIEGO

WASHINGTON, July 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that the Mediterranean fruit fly has been eradicated from San Diego County, Calif.

An infestation of this destructive pest of fruits, nuts, berries, and vegetables was brought under control in a cooperative effort of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

"We are removing quarantine regulations designed to prevent the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for APHIS' plant protection and quarantine program. "The regulations placed restrictions on the interstate movement of certain articles."

A Mediterranean fruit fly was last trapped in the area on Nov. 27, 1992. No evidence of infestation has been found since then.

The Mediterranean fruit fly feeds on more than 200 different fruits and vegetables. The pest can cause serious economic losses. Heavy infestations can cause complete loss of crops, and losses of 25 to 50 percent are common.

The announcement was published as an interim rule in the July 22 Federal Register. Removal of the quarantine took effect July 16.

Written comments are welcome and will be accepted if received by Sept. 20. An original and three copies of comments should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments should refer to docket number 91-155-5.

Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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Release No. 0637.93

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USDA ALLOWS MEXICAN AVOCADOS TO ENTER ALASKA

WASHINGTON, July 30 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it will allow commercially grown Hass variety avocados from the Mexican State of Michoacan to enter the State of Alaska.

"We have reviewed a great deal of scientific information about the proposed importations," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's plant protection and quarantine program. "We have concluded that these avocados can be imported safely under conditions designed to protect U.S. producers from any associated agricultural health risks, such as fruit flies and seed pests."

Under the new regulations, APHIS will only allow shipments from growers enrolled in Mexico's avocado export program. Participants' avocados are inspected, shipped, and packed in accordance with procedures the Mexican Government has designed to minimize the risk of exporting pest-infested fruit.

In addition, the avocados will only be allowed entry at certain U.S. ports and will be subject to strict transit restrictions. Boxes are to be marked for distribution in Alaska only.

"In the unlikely event that an infested avocado entered Alaska, the pest would never survive the climate," Lee said. "We will continue to prohibit all other avocado importations from Mexico."

The new regulations were published in the July 27 Federal Register and became effective the same day.

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Release No. 0638.93

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USDA CHANGES GYPSY MOTH REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, July 30 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its gypsy moth regulations to help prevent the spread of this destructive insect pest of trees.

"Every year thousands of acres of trees are defoliated by gypsy moths. We believe these revisions will help prevent the artificial spread of this pest," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The revisions require inspectors to certify Christmas trees, other trees without roots, and outdoor household articles before they move from gypsy moth infested areas. These articles have the potential to carry gypsy moth egg masses long distances, sometimes resulting in outbreaks in noninfested areas.

The revisions also change the definition of the regulated area, with one set of rules governing all movement of regulated articles in gypsy moth infested areas. Newly infested counties are also included.

The revisions were announced as a final rule in the July 23 Federal Register.

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Program Announcements-

Release No. 0616.93
 Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734
 Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, July 27--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| --long grain whole kernels: | 6.75 cents per pound |
| --medium grain whole kernels: | 6.06 cents per pound |
| --short grain whole kernels: | 6.03 cents per pound |
| --broken kernels: | 3.38 cents per pound |

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

| | Loan Gain and LDP Rate | Marketing Certificate Rate |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| |\$/Cwt..... | |
| --for long grain: | \$2.03 | \$0.48 |
| --for medium grain: | \$1.84 | \$0.48 |
| --for short grain: | \$1.84 | \$0.49 |

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Aug. 3 at 3 p.m. EDT.

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Release No. 0617.93
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 Steve Lombardi (202) 720-4026

USDA TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON IMPORTED WOOD

WASHINGTON, July 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public comments on the content of a proposed environmental impact statement on the importation of unmanufactured wood articles, such as logs, timber, wood chips, bark, and pulp wood.

In response to intense commercial interest in foreign wood sources in the Pacific Northwest, USDA is developing comprehensive regulations on the importation of unmanufactured wood. These regulations may require the use of certain treatments, such as debarking, heat treatment,

fumigation, pesticide use, inspection, and permitting and certification before importation to control plant pests and diseases.

The notice, which was published in the July 26 Federal Register, lists the environmental issues that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service intends to analyze. Issues include the human safety of pesticide use, the potential impact on U.S. forests and the potential for causing an increased demand for foreign wood products.

Those who comment are welcome to suggest other issues that may need to be evaluated. Comments will be accepted if they are received by Aug. 25 and should refer to docket number 92-195-1. An original and three copies should be sent to: Jack Edmundson, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 543, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

When the draft EIS is completed, a notice announcing its availability and an invitation to comment on it will be published in the Federal Register.

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Release No. 0621.93
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USDA SETS USER FEES FOR VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, July 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced it will charge user fees for certain veterinary diagnostic services provided by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

As authorized under the 1990 Farm Bill, the USDA can charge fees to recover costs of providing direct services for veterinary diagnostics. Veterinary diagnostics are laboratory tests performed to detect disease-causing organisms or chemical agents or antibodies to these organisms that indicate exposure.

The following services will be subject to user fees:

- Laboratory tests required to qualify animals and birds for import or export.
- Laboratory tests on animal tissue specimens referred to APHIS by veterinarians, state animal health officials or university representatives who want help establishing or confirming a diagnosis.
- Provision of diagnostic reagents, slide sets, and tissue sets. Diagnostic reagents are biological materials used in diagnostic tests that detect disease agents or antibodies by causing an identifiable reaction.
- Sterilization of animal tissue and blood specimens by gamma radiation.

The revised regulations for user fees were published in the July 21 Federal Register and take effect Sept. 1.

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Release No. 0626.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, July 29--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for base quality upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Aug. 5, and the user

marketing certificate payment rates in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 30 through midnight Thursday, Aug. 5.

Because the 1993 marketing year begins Aug. 1, the AWP and CCA for July 29 through July 31 are based on the 1992-crop price support loan schedule of premiums and discounts. The AWP and CCA for the period Aug. 1 through Aug. 5 are based on the 1993-crop schedule.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP for the period July 29 through July 31 may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.29 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I. Calculated AWP | 43.63 cents per pound |
| 1992 Base Loan Rate | 52.35 cents per pound |
| AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate | 83 |
| | |
| II. USNE Price | 61.60 cents per pound |
| NE Price | <u>-57.31</u> cents per pound |
| Maximum Adjustment Allowed | 4.29 cents per pound |

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to the calculated AWP for the period July 29 through July 31 will be made. The AWP and CCA for the period are determined as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Adjusted World Price</u> | |
| NE Price | 57.31 |
| Adjustments: | |
| Average U.S. spot market location | 11.82 |
| SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton | 1.55 |
| Average U.S. location | 0.31 |
| Sum of Adjustments | <u>- 13.68</u> |
| Calculated AWP | 43.63 |
| Further AWP adjustment | <u>- 0</u> |
| ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE | 43.63 cents/lb. |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <u>Coarse Count Adjustment</u> | |
| NE Price | 57.31 |
| NE Coarse Count Price | <u>- 53.58</u> |
| | 3.73 |
| Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton | <u>- 3.95</u> |
| | -0.22 |
| COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT..... | 0 cents/lb. |

Because the AWP is below the 1991, 1992 and 1993 base quality loan rates of 50.77, 52.35 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending July 29, a further adjustment to the calculated AWP effective from 12:01 a.m. Aug. 1 through 3:59 p.m. Aug. 5 may be made. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.29 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I. Calculated AWP | 43.68 cents per pound |
| 1993 Base Loan Rate | 52.35 cents per pound |
| AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate | 83 |
| | |
| II. USNE Price | 61.60 cents per pound |
| NE Price | <u>-57.31</u> cents per pound |
| Maximum Adjustment Allowed | 4.29 cents per pound |

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to the calculated AWP for the period will be made.

Based on data for the week ending July 29, the AWP for base quality upland cotton and the CCA in effect from 12:01 a.m. Aug. 1 through 3:59 p.m. Aug. 5 are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| NE Price | 57.31 |
| Adjustments: | |
| Average U.S. spot market location | 11.82 |
| SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton | 1.50 |
| Average U.S. location | 0.31 |
| Sum of Adjustments | <u>- 13.63</u> |
| Calculated AWP | 43.68 |
| Further AWP Adjustment | <u>- 0</u> |
| ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE | 43.68 cents/lb. |

Coarse Count Adjustment

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| NE Price | 57.31 |
| NE Coarse Count Price | <u>- 53.58</u> |
| | 3.73 |
| Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton | <u>- 3.20</u> |
| COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT | |
| | 0.53 cents/lb. |

Because the AWP is below the 1991, 1992 and 1993 base quality loan rates, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus any applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will also be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP in effect during this period is below the 1993-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to their 1993 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 1.82 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

| Week | For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending | USNE Current Price | NE Current Price | USNE | Current |
|------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | | | Minus NE Price | User Marketing Certificate Payment |
| | | | | cents per pound | |
| 1 | July 8, 1993 | 58.15 | 56.81 | 1.34 | 0.09 |
| 2 | July 15, 1993 | 60.20 | 58.07 | 2.13 | 0.88 |
| 3 | July 22, 1993 | 61.20 | 58.55 | 2.65 | 1.40 |
| 4 | July 29, 1993 | 61.60 | 58.53 | 3.07 | 1.82 |

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

The USNE forward price has exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result the forward user marketing certificate rate is 3.04 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

| Week | For | USNE | NE | USNE | Forward |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Friday through Thursday Period Ending | Forward Price | Forward Price | Forward cents per pound | User Marketing Certificate |
| 1 | July 8, 1993 | 57.85 | 56.12 | 1.73 | 0.48 |
| 2 | July 15, 1993 | 59.75 | 57.09 | 2.66 | 1.41 |
| 3 | July 22, 1993 | 60.90 | 57.37 | 3.53 | 2.28 |
| 4 | July 29, 1993 | 61.60 | 57.31 | 4.29 | 3.04 |

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 5.

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Release No. 0634.93
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USDA PROPOSES USER FEES FOR VETERINARY SERVICES PROVIDED FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT

WASHINGTON, July 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to charge user fees for certain veterinary services provided by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the import and export of animals, animal products, and biological materials.

The 1990 Farm Bill authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees to recover the costs of services needed to enforce federal animal quarantine laws. APHIS conducts inspections and tests of animals and animal products moving internationally to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. USDA is proposing that fees be charged to those receiving the following services from APHIS:

- Import-related inspections and services provided at ports along the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada.
- Inspecting and approving facilities importing animals, animal products, or biological materials.
- Inspecting and processing animals and animal products at U.S. ports of entry.
- Approval of slaughter establishments.
- Inspecting pet birds returning to the United States and supervision of their home quarantine.
- Processing paperwork and endorsing export and import permits for germplasm.
- Pre-entry piroplasmosis screening for equine imports.
- Processing releases of animals and animal products from agricultural quarantine.

The proposal was published in the July 22 Federal Register. Written comments will be accepted if received by Aug. 23 and should refer to docket number 92-042-1. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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